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June 2, 1959

To: The Acting Secretary
Through: S/S *f*
From: EUR - Foy D. Kohler *far*
Subject: Significant points in Geneva memoranda of
conversations

The following developments reported in memoranda
of conversations in Geneva received in the Department
since my May 29 memorandum to Mr. Murphy, a copy of which
went to you, may be of interest.

1. Berlin settlement. In a conversation on May 23
with Dr. Grawe, Merchant said that by "interim solution"
we did not mean a standstill proposal, which had serious
disadvantages in the US view, but a temporary settlement to
be valid until reunification. In a conversation with
Duckwitz of the German Delegation on May 28, Thompson
said that the reason for contemplating a separate Berlin
settlement was to meet the problem of how to justify a
Summit conference, pointing out that Berlin seemed to be
the only subject on which progress appeared possible.

2. Soviet attitude toward West German rearment.
In private conversations Gromyko has several times re-
flected Soviet concern about the atomic arming of the
Federal Republic. On May 21, for example, following the
Secretary's dinner, Gromyko attacked the trend toward
atomic arming of West Germany and appeared totally un-
impressed by the Secretary's and McElroy's explanation
that nuclear warheads would remain in US custody. Simi-
larly in a conversation with Couve on May 22, Gromyko
gave the impression that the installation or non-
installation of strategic weapons in the Federal Republic
was an important matter to the Soviets; when Couve ex-
plained that tactical weapons only were involved and that
in any case warheads would remain in US custody, Gromyko
commented that one could not be sure that this would
always be the case.

3. Duration...

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3. Duration of Conference. At a meeting of the four Western Foreign Ministers on May 22, there was a discussion of a possible termination date for the conference on West German initiative. Couve doubted the desirability of the West's pressing for fixing a terminal date because of the propaganda disadvantages. The Secretary commented that the Soviets appeared to envisage a lengthy conference, pointing out that in his nuclear test discussion with Gromyko the latter had asked that the test negotiators submit a report to the Foreign Ministers (which could not be done until some time after June 8 when the nuclear test conference re-convenes).

4. Summit site. Duckwitz of the West German Delegation reported on May 29 that Illichev of the Soviet Delegation had suggested Berlin as a possible Summit site and was not disturbed when Duckwitz pointed out that the only suitable facilities in Berlin for a Summit conference would be the Congress Hall in West Berlin.

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